GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, BRISBANE. PRESS REPORT.

Returns supplied by Registrars of Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville Supreme Courts show that during the calendar year 1945, 897 divorce decrees were made absolute, 6 marriages were declared annulled and 4 judicial separations were granted. Only 21 petitions were dismissed by the Courts. In the years preceding 1914 the average number of marriages dissolved in Queensland each year was only 26. The figure rose to over 100 in 1924 and remained fairly steady at about this figure until 1933, from which date it rose slowly to 255 in 1941. In 1943 a rapid rise commenced and the 1945 figure is of record height.

Before the war there were very few dissolutions of marriages of less than 5 years' duration. Such dissolutions have greatly increased since 1941. But dissolutions of war marriages (i.e., marriages contracted since the beginning of the war) in 1945 only accounted for 113 out of 907 dissolutions. Dissolutions of marriages of 5 to 20 years' standing are now three times as frequent as they were in 1941. Rates of divorce in 1941 were such as to dissolve about 4 per cent. of all marriages, (or 5 per cent. of all marriages other than those broken by the death of one of the spouses). For 1945 these figures have risen to 13 per cent. of all marriages (or 15 per cent. of all marriages excluding those broken by death).

American data show that rates of divorce have increased by nearly one half between 1938 and 1944 and the indications are that present rates of divorce will dissolve between 30 and 40 per cent. of all American marriages.

Other oversea countries showing high rates of divorce are Germany, Austria, Denmark, the Baltic countries, Japan and Switzerland.

BRISBANE.

22nd May, 1946.